IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A biologically active conjugate derivative having the following general formula (I)

FE – L – M (I)

where:

M represents the corresponding radical of a biologically active molecule selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, and polypeptides;

FE represents a functionalizing entity selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and antibody fragments; and

L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro,

which is capable of being cleaved by chemical treatment to leave Nle, βAla, Gly or Pro, respectively, as a reporter group linked to M.

2. (original) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterised in that said functionalizing entity FE is a polymer with a molecular weight in the range of 2 Kd to 50 Kd.

3. (original) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 2 characterised in that said polymer is PEG.

4. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 2 characterised in that said functionalizing entity FE is a linear polymer.

5. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 2 characterised in that said functionalizing entity FE is a branched polymer.

6. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterised in that said biologically active molecule is a protein selected from the group consisting of insulin, lysozyme, interferon, erythropoietin, G-CSF, and GH.

7. (currently amended) A method for identifying linkage sites of conjugation ~~of the functionalizing entity FE selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and antibody fragments,~~ on the biologically active drug conjugate derivative of claim 1, ~~along the biologically active molecule M,~~ which method comprises:

(a) cleaving ~~a specific chemical cleavage of~~ the linking arm L comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro;~~[[,]]~~

(b) ~~releasing after~~ removing the functionalizing entity ~~and separating~~ FE ~~by classical methods, to leave~~; and

(c) detecting Nle, βAla, Gly or Pro, respectively, as a reporter group linked to the biologically active molecule M to identify said linkage sites.

8. (currently amended) An intermediate compound, for the preparation of the biologically active conjugate of claim 1, having the following general formula (II)

FE – L (II)

where:

FE represents a functionalizing entity selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and antibody fragments; and

L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro.

9. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that said biologically active molecule is an interferon.

10. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 9 characterized in that said biologically active molecule is interferon α-2b.

11. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that said biologically active molecule is selected from the group consisting of erythropoietin, G-CSF, and GH.

12. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that said linking arm is Met-Nle.

13. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that said linking arm is Met-βAla.

Kindly enter the following new claims.

14. (new) A biologically active conjugate derivative FE – L – M, wherein M represents the corresponding radical of a biologically active molecule which is an interferon, FE represents a functionalizing entity which is PEG, and L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro.

15. (new) An intermediate compound FE – L for the preparation of a biologically active conjugate, wherein FE represents a functionalizing entity which is PEG and L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro.